

### REMARKS

This is submitted with the filing of an RCE. The above listing of the claims supersedes any previous listing. Favorable reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the at least one latent curing agent A and at least one inert particle B. Particle B is now selected amongst inorganic metal oxides and mineral natural fillers. Additionally, particle B is defined as having the specific recited surface area. This feature is a distinguishing feature over the art.

As Muroi *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,480,957) recites the use of an epoxy based carrier, the limitation of particle B to be inorganic alone renders Muroi *et al* irrelevant with respect of patentability.

Ahsan (US Patent No. 6,822,341) teaches a composite comprising an epoxy resin, a curing agent and a curative complex. While the curative complex only superficially resembles the solid composite of Claim 1 of the instant invention, it is in fact different. Two distinguishing features are the use of curing agents, i.e. amine compounds and the use of excess B as recited in Claim 1.

It is therefore submitted that neither Muroi nor Ahsan disclose the invention of Claim 1 and direct the Examiner's attention to the distinguishing features of surface area and A:B ratio.

As to Sussman *et al.* (US Patent No. 3,288,747), the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's reading of the description. Here too, a composition comprising epoxy resin is disclosed. The filler particles present in the composition are not described *per se*. They are said to be "*individually coated with a surface filler of a curing agent to furnish a substantial surface area of curing agent for reacting with the resin at molding temperatures...the filler particles having a size not more than approximately 60 mesh*". This description is of the particles when in "*intimate mixture*" with the epoxy-resin. The description does not provide any indication that the particles themselves, separated from the epoxy resin can be characterized as disclosed. Thus, Sussman *et al.* cannot be regarded as novelty destroying of Claim 1.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the claims of the divisional application, as newly presented in this response are allowable over the art which has been applied in the office action of the parent application. Favorable consideration and allowance of these claims are courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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